

It is Humbly Offered, by some Uninterested Persons, That the laying a greater Duty on Low-Wines, or Spirits drawn from Melasses than on other Spirits, or the total Prohibition thereof (which will certainly be the Effect) will be of a bad Consequence to the Nation, for the following Reasons.

I. **B**RANDY or *Fine Spirits* being only to be drawn from the Fruit of the Vine or the Sugar-Cane, viz. *Sugar* or *Melasses*; the former being Discouraged by the Prohibition of all *Foreign-Brandy*, the latter ought to be Encouraged, because nothing else will make *Brandy* that will Equalize that of *France*.

II. As to *Wine* and *Fruit* that is Imported, it is a very small Quantity that is Distilled; for no Man designedly brings in that which is bad: Wherefore the Prohibiting the Distilling thereof, will be of great Loss to the Merchant: For at this present, there's some Quantity here which is not worth Freight and Customs; and will be less worth if Distilling is forbid.

III. Therefore, In case a larger Duty is design'd to be laid on *Fine Spirits* drawn from *Melasses*, &c. than *Foul Spirits* drawn from *Corn*; The Only Easy and Advantageous Way is, by an *Additional-Duty* on all *Melasses* to be paid at the *Custom-House*, which will absolutely prevent any Disputes which may be between the *Excise-Officers* and the *Distillers* about the Quality of the *Spirits*, and will Save to the King about 20000 *l. per Annum*, which will be drawn back from the Customs on Unpurged *Sugars* Exported: For if *Melasses* be so Burthened that it cannot be Distilled here, the *Refiners* and *Distillers* Trade must fall; and consequently Unpurged *Sugars* must be Exported to be Worked abroad.

IV. If therefore we intend totally to prevent the Importation of *French* or *Foreign Brandy*, we must Encourage the Manufactury of that of equal Goodness here; which will be a great Advantage to the Nation, by Employing our own People, and will keep our Money in the Nation; which hath been, and may be sent to *France* for Purchasing the Growth of that Kingdom.

V. The Discouraging the *Refiners* and *Distillers* Trade here, will be of a very bad Consequence to our *Plantations* (whose Burthen already is very great) and Encourage the *Plantations* of our Neighbours: For they are at liberty to give us what they please for our Unpurged *Sugars*, if we cannot Work them here; and so will consequently lessen our Shipping that are usually Employed to our *Islands*.

VI. This Discouraging of our *Plantations* will have a great Influence on *Ireland*, from whence they are Annually Supplied with Beef, Pork, and all sorts of Provisions in great Quantities; and also may be some Prejudice to the *Guiny-Trade*.